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THESIS

PAKISTAN IN THE ERA OF GREAT POWER COMPETITION

by

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will continue to provide resources to help stabilize Pakistan because Beijing needs its help to prevent the Taliban and other extremist groups from creating internal instability in China by supporting Chinese Muslim separatist groups.[31] Similar to the literature regarding U.S.-Pakistani relations, the literature pertaining to Sino-Pakistani relations does not analyze in depth the implications of Russia's growing influence in Pakistan in the context of the emerging GPC.

Although Pakistan does not have a history of a strong relationship with Russia, some recent literature claims that Russia may potentially meet Pakistan's need resulting from its instability should the uncertainty in U.S.-Pakistani relations continue. Literature on this topic is limited; nevertheless, the arguments presented by scholars for this relationship are just as convincing as those for the relationship between Pakistan and other great powers. Almas Haider Naqvi and Yasir Masood point out that neither country has had a single bilateral dispute, and the tensions in their relationship were a product of each state acting "against each other to damage" the other's interest indirectly in "the pursuit of [each's] geopolitical goals and security imperatives."[32] They acknowledge that despite Russia not having a clear strategy in the region, there are several areas today in which Russia and Pakistan can find common ground, leaving the opportunity available for Pakistan to benefit from yet another great power alliance it previously did not have. Vinay Kaura disagrees only in that he believes Russia does have a significant strategy, which gives Pakistan greater influence in the formation of the potential alliance.[33] Sarah Akram is also optimistic that a bilateral relationship can form between the countries due to the proactive actions each state has taken thus far. Each state, she says, recognizes the potential

[31] Umbreen Javaid, "China–Pakistan Future Prospects and Their Strategic Compulsions," *Journal of Political Studies* 22, no. 1 (Summer 2015): 259–260, ProQuest.

[32] Almas Haider Naqvi and Yasir Masood, "Rejuvenating Pakistan–Russia Relations: Discernable Trends and Future," *Strategic Studies* 37, no. 4 (Winter 2017): 19, ProQuest.

[33] Vinay Kaura, "Russia's Changing Relations with Pakistan and Taliban: Implications for India," *Jadavpur Journal of International Relations* 22, no. 1 (June 2018): 73, https://doi.org/10.1177/0973598418761727.